

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-15 the claims that have been examined in the application. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter as the claim reads “a host management program of a host management apparatus”. Claims 1-4 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamoto (US Publication 2001/0023487). Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US Publication 2001/0023487) in view of Yamaguchi et al. (US Patent 7,136,997).

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1, 13 and 15, and adding new claim 16.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings filed on July 21, 2005.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the reference submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 20, 2004.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as the claim reads “a host management program of a host management apparatus”

Applicants hereby amend claim 15 in order to obviate the instant rejection.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamoto (US Publication 2001/0023487).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, “a host authentication section for authenticating a selected host based on a user key that is unique to users of the host management apparatus.” The Examiner alleges that Kawamoto discloses all of the aspects of claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Kawamoto is directed toward a multicast system in which a user processor transmits a login requirement to an authentication server, and a receiver terminal transmits login requirements to the authentication server. If the two login requirements do not match, then connection between the user processor and the receiver terminal is not completed. However, according to Kawamoto, a host terminal should be pre-registered at the authentication server (after the host terminal has accessed and logged into the authentication server, the encryption key is periodically updated (paragraphs [0044]-(0045))). On the other hand, as recited in claim 1, the authentication is performed based on a user key that is unique to users of the host management apparatus. Therefore, the pre-register of the host terminal is not necessary. Thus, Kawamoto

fails to disclose that the authenticating a selected host is based on a user key that is unique to users of the host management apparatus. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the applied art.

Claims 13 and 15 recite limitations similar to claim 1 and are patentable for reasons analogous thereto. Claims 2-4 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US Publication 2001/0023487) in view of Yamaguchi et al. (US Patent 7,136,997).

Claims 5-12 depend from claim 1. Because Kawamoto fails to disclose each of the elements of claim 1, and because Yamaguchi fails to cure the deficiency noted in Kawamoto, claims 5-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

New Claim

Applicant hereby adds new claim 16, which depends from claim 1, and is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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